

PC.DEL/1100/17  
24 July 2017

ENGLISH  
Original: RUSSIAN

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH,  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,  
AT THE 1155th MEETING OF THE  
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

21 July 2017

**On the “unlawful killings” in the Chechen Republic**

Mr. Chairperson,

We are surprised at the question raised by our distinguished United States colleagues. Why would you raise unverified information in the Permanent Council?

This is not the first time we have heard unsubstantiated assertions referring to certain “reliable sources”.

This subject is very reminiscent of the recent, also “true”, story involving members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community in the Chechen Republic, who, according to information from that same source, were allegedly being unlawfully detained, held in pre-trial detention facilities and some of them had even been killed. As you are aware, this newspaper hoax has not received any official confirmation, although it is still considered as reliable in certain circles that have a particular interest in this.

I ask our United States colleagues to take a professional approach to the consideration of this question and any other issues. If you have concrete facts and not just newspaper clippings, present them to us – we will certainly pass them on to the competent authorities responsible for conducting the relevant investigations. There are also special inter-State mechanisms for Russian-US co-operation, which enable the law enforcement authorities of the two countries to exchange information and receive feedback without the unnecessary politicization of matters. For the fact is that politicization often only hinders the conduct of a thorough and comprehensive investigation.

I can assure you that we take such matters very seriously, especially when there is talk of people being killed.

Thank you for your attention.